

8. Alternative Step 6A. Large thick hides were placed in "sour liquor" composed of rye and water after removal from the handler vats. This step opened the pores of the hide for more thorough tanning.
9. Dry the hides. The hides were hung in a large shed after removal from the latches or latches. The hides were ready for sale after drying and conditioning.
10. Curry the hides. The final step at some tanyards (including Edenton) was to curry the hides that were to be used for special purposes. Curried hides were used for fine leather products, and currying was simply a process to more completely "finish" the hides.

The tanning process was long and labor intensive. As many as two years were required to adequately tan hides, and tanyards required very large initial financial backing in order to be successful.

Perhaps one of the more frustrating aspects of the historical research was the paucity of information available on tobacco manufacture. This dearth of material extended beyond the Edenton records. Research was conducted at Earl Gregg Swem Library at the College of William and Mary, the Alderman Library at the University of Virginia, and the University of Georgia. None of the research contributed substantive data concerning the social, economic, or political significance of tobacco manufacture in colonial America.

The small amount of information indicates that a large majority of tobacco grown in the Colonies was shipped to England for processing and distribution. This seemingly suggests that British mercantile policy may have discouraged the home production of tobacco as it did other finished products. The British monarchy made the growing of tobacco in England and Ireland illegal to protect the market of the American Colonies. British mercantile policy viewed overseas colonies essentially as extractive enterprises (Quinn, Personal Communication, 1977). There are, however, insufficient data at this time to fully evaluate the situation. It is clear that colonial manufacture of tobacco, i.e., the processing of cured tobacco into a usable product, was not a widespread concern. Placed into a temporal framework, it seems that only an occasional manufacture appears in the records during the early eighteenth century. None were long-lived, and nothing is known of the market. It is not until after ca. 1780 that more substantial operations begin to emerge. The coincidence of this influx with the end of British colonial rule again suggests the colonial policy may have been a restriction on the manufacture.

It is difficult, therefore, to evaluate the position of the Edenton operation. Generally speaking, the lack of evidence can be viewed as a strong indication that the Edenton Snuff and Tobacco Manufacture